



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

AS S

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,850	07/25/2001	Ikuo Aoki	1293.1228	3894

21171 7590 09/25/2003

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

ORTIZ CRIADO, JORGE L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2697

S

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/911,850	AOKI, IKUO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jorge L Ortiz-Criado	2697

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 24 and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - “The method of claim 19” should be “The method of claim 23”.Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1,6-14, 18-19 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriuzawa et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,385,144 in view of Maeda U.S. Patent No. 6,028,828.

Regarding claim 1, Kuriuzawa et al. discloses an optical disc, comprising:
track grooves formed in a radial direction of the disc, with the disc being divided into a plurality of zones (See col. 2, lines 41-62; Fig. 2),

wherein each zone has a recording capacity in which an arbitrary recording capacity is added to a data recording capacity needed for each divided zone (See col. 2, lines 41-62; Fig. 2).

Kuriuzawa et al. fails to disclose wherein the track grooves are formatted into a waved pattern in the radial direction of the disc, overlapped over recorded user data, to record zone address information for each of the divided zones based on a predetermined modulation rule.

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda, which discloses having a disk divided into a plurality of zones forming track grooves formed in a radial direction of the disc wherein the track grooves are formatted into a waved pattern in the radial direction of the disc, overlapped over recorded user data, to record zone address information for each of the divided zones based on a predetermined modulation rule (See col. 3, lines 39-44; col. 8, line 63- to col. 9, line 25; col. 10, lines 36-42; Figs. 6,7,8,14),

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to format the track grooves into a waved pattern in the radial direction of the disc, in order to prevent cross-talk between zones at the boundaries as suggested by Maeda

Regarding claim 6, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above would show wherein, when data is recorded or reproduced at both sides of a land portion and a groove portion formed by one of the track grooves (See Maeda col. 10, lines 43-67; Fig. 14),

a sequence in recording or reproduction of data in each zone is performed according to a following sequence: after recording or reproduction at a groove portion in each zone is completed, recording or reproduction at the land portion is performed (See Maeda col. 21, lines 8-26; Fig. 25).

Regarding claim 7, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above would show wherein, when data is recorded or reproduced at both sides of a land portion and a groove portion formed by one of the track grooves, a sequence in recording or reproduction of data in each zone is performed according to a following sequence: after recording or reproduction at a land portion in each zone is completed, recording or reproduction at the groove portion is performed (See Maeda col. 21, lines 8-26; Fig. 25)

Regarding claim 8, Kuriuzawa et al. further discloses wherein the optical disc is a DVD-RAM disc (See col. 5, lines 54-60; Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 9, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above would show wherein each zone has a plurality of sectors (See Maeda col. 3, lines 39-51; col. 8, line 63 to col. 9 line 30; Figs. 6,7,8,9).

Regarding claim 10, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above would show wherein each of the plurality of sectors has a sector address portion to store a corresponding sector address (See Maeda col. 3, lines 39-51; col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 30; Figs. 6,7,8,9)

Regarding claim 11, Kuriuzawa et al. discloses an optical disc, comprising: a plurality of tracks formed in a spiral direction of the optical disc, each track having at least a groove portion (See col. 1, lines 6-11; col. 2, lines 41-62; Fig. 2); and

a plurality of zones, each zone including a predetermined number of the plurality of tracks (See col. 1, lines 6-11; col. 2, lines 41-62; Fig. 2),

Kuriuzawa et al. fails to disclose wherein the optical disc is formatted to include zone addresses for each zone by formatting a portion of the corresponding zone track grooves, in each zone, to include a wobble pattern based on a predetermined modulation.

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda, which discloses having a disk divided into a plurality of zones forming track grooves formed in a spiral direction of the disc wherein the optical disc is formatted to include zone addresses for each zone by formatting a portion of the corresponding zone track grooves, in each zone, to include a wobble pattern based on a predetermined modulation (See col. 3, lines 39-51; col. 8, lines 63-64; Figs. 6,7,8),

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to format formatted to include zone addresses for each zone by formatting a portion of the corresponding zone track grooves, in each zone, to include a wobble pattern based on a predetermined modulation, in order to prevent cross-talk at the boundaries between neighboring zones as suggested by Maeda

Regarding claim 12, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above would show wherein each track further includes a land portion. (See Maeda col. 10, lines 43-67; Fig. 14)

Regarding claim 13, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above would show wherein land and groove recording and reproduction is possible, respectively, to and from more than one spiral of the optical disc (See Maeda col. 3, lines 39-51; col. 8, line 63 to col. 9 line 25; col. 10, lines 43-67; Fig. 14; col. 21, lines 8-26; Fig. 25; Figs. 6,7,8, 14,25).

Regarding claim 14, Kuriuzawa et al. further discloses wherein the optical disc is a DVD-RAM disc (See col. 5, lines 54-60; Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 18, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above would show wherein the predetermined modulation rule is one of an FM modulation, an AM modulation, and a PM modulation (See Maeda col. 9, lines 9-25; Fig. 8).

Regarding claim 19, Kuriuzawa et al. further discloses wherein the predetermined number of the plurality of tracks for each zone is based upon the data recording capacity needed for each zone plus an arbitrary recording capacity (See col. 2, lines 41-62; Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 21, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above would show wherein each zone has a plurality of sectors (See Maeda col. 3, lines 39-51; col. 8, line 63 to col. 9 line 30; Figs. 6,7,8,9).

Regarding claim 22, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above would show wherein each of the plurality of sectors has a sector address portion to store a

corresponding sector address (See Maeda col. 3, lines 39-51; col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 30; Figs. 6,7,8,9)

Regarding claim 23, Kuriuzawa et al. discloses a method of recording data on an optical disc, comprising:

dividing the optical disc into a plurality of zones (See col. 1, lines 6-11; col. 2, lines 41-62; Fig. 2) and

recording user data in a user data portion of the zone (See col. 2, lines 41-62; Fig. 2).

Kuriuzawa et al. fails to disclose formatting a zone address portion of one of the zones to include a wobble pattern based on a predetermined modulation rule and corresponding to an address of the zone.

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Maeda, which discloses having a disk divided into a plurality of zones forming track grooves formed in a spiral direction of the disc formatting a zone address portion of one of the zones to include a wobble pattern based on a predetermined modulation rule and corresponding to an address of the zone (See col. 3, lines 39-51; col. 8, line 63 to col. 9 line 25; Figs. 6,7,8);

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to format formatting a zone address portion of one of the zones to include a wobble pattern based on a predetermined modulation rule and corresponding to an address of the zone in order to prevent cross-talk between zones at the boundaries between neighboring zones as suggested by Maeda.

3. Claims 2-5,15-17, 20 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriuzawa et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,385,144 in combination with Maeda U.S. Patent No. 6,028,828 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Fukushima et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,138,599.

Regarding claim 2, Kuriuzawa et al. in combination with Maeda discloses all the limitations based on claim 1, as outlined above. The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above further teaches an arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone separate from a user data recording area (See Kuriuzawa et al. col. 2, lines 43-62), but fails to disclose wherein an arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone has a coupling area

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Fukushima et al., which discloses an optical disc with a plurality of zones and a coupling area separate from a user data recording area (See col. 2, lines 3-17; col. 4, line 39-58, col. 4, line 59 –60; Fig. 1)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone with a coupling area separate from a user data recording area in order to avoid erroneous reproduction due to cross-talk between neighbors track at the boundaries of the zones as suggested by Fukushima et al.

Regarding claim 3, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda and further in view of Fukushima et al. as modified above would show wherein the coupling area has a predetermined pattern (See Fukushima et al., col. 5, lines 32-61)

Regarding claim 4, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda and further in view of Fukushima et al. as modified above would show wherein, during recording of the user data, in each zone an arbitrary zone start pattern and/or zone end pattern is additionally recorded (See Fukushima et al., col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 31; Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 5, Kuriuzawa et al. in combination with Maeda discloses all the limitations based on claim 1, as outlined above. The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above furthers teaches an arbitrary zone at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone (See Kuriuzawa et al. col. 2, lines 43-62), but fails to disclose wherein, during recording of the user data, in each zone an arbitrary zone start pattern and/or zone end pattern is additionally recorded.

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Fukushima et al., which discloses wherein, during recording of the user data, in each zone an arbitrary zone start pattern and/or zone end pattern is additionally recorded (See col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 31; Fig. 3).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an arbitrary zone start pattern and/or zone end pattern in order to avoid erroneous reproduction due to cross-talk as suggested by Fukushima et al.

Regarding claim 15, Kuriuzawa et al. in combination with Maeda discloses all the limitations based on claim 1, as outlined above. The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above furthers teaches wherein each zone further includes an arbitrary area, separate from a user data recording area of a corresponding zone, with the arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumference of the corresponding zone. (See Kuriuzawa et al. col. 2, lines 43-62), but fails to disclose wherein an arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone has a coupling area.

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Fukushima et al., which discloses an optical disc with a plurality of zones and a coupling area separate from a user data recording area (See col. 2, lines 3-17; col. 4, line 39-58, col. 4, line 59 –60; Fig. 1)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone with a coupling area separate from a user data recording area in order to avoid erroneous reproduction due to cross-talk between neighbors track at the boundaries of the zones as suggested by Fukushima et al.

Regarding claim 16, The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda and further in view of Fukushima et al. as modified above would show wherein a predetermined pattern is recorded in the coupling area, with the pattern being based on a recording or reproduction system to perform recording or reproduction, respectively, to or from the optical disc (See Fukushima et al., col. 2, lines 3-17; col. 4, line 39-58, col. 4, line 59 –60; Fig. 1)

Regarding claim 17, Kuriuzawa et al. in combination with Maeda discloses all the limitations based on claim 11, as outlined above. The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above furthers teaches an arbitrary zone at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone (See Kuriuzawa et al. col. 2, lines 43-62), but fails to disclose wherein, during recording of the user data, in each zone an arbitrary zone start pattern and/or zone end pattern is additionally recorded.

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Fukushima et al., which discloses an optical disc with a plurality of zones and a coupling area separate from a user data recording area (See col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 31; Fig. 3).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an arbitrary zone start pattern and/or zone end pattern in order to avoid erroneous reproduction due to cross-talk between adjacent zones as suggested by Fukushima et al.

Regarding claim 20, Kuriuzawa et al. in combination with Maeda discloses all the limitations based on claim 1, as outlined above. The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above furthers teaches an arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone separate from a user data recording area (See Kuriuzawa et al. col. 2, lines 43-62), but fails to disclose wherein the arbitrary recording capacity is a coupling area.

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Fukushima et al., which discloses an optical disc with a plurality of zones and a coupling area separate from a user data recording area (See col. 2, lines 3-17; col. 4, line 39-58, col. 4, line 59 –60; Fig. 1)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone with a coupling area separate from a user data recording area in order to avoid erroneous reproduction due to cross-talk between neighbors track at the boundaries of the zones as suggested by Fukushima et al.

Regarding claim 24, Kuriuzawa et al. in combination with Maeda discloses all the limitations based on the method claim 23, as outlined above. The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above furthers teaches wherein each zone further includes an arbitrary area, separate from a user data recording area, with the arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumference. (See Kuriuzawa et al. col. 2, lines 43-62), but fails to disclose a recording a predetermined pattern in an additional coupling portion of the zone, after the recording of user data.

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Fukushima et al., which discloses an optical disc with a plurality of zones and a predetermined pattern in an additional coupling portion of the zone, after the recording of user data (See col. 2, lines 3-17; col. 4, line 39-58, col. 4, line 59 –60; Fig. 1)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an arbitrary area at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone with a predetermined pattern in the coupling area separate from a user data recording area in order to avoid erroneous reproduction due to cross-talk between neighbors track at the boundaries of the zones as suggested by Fukushima et al.

Regarding claim 25, Kuriuzawa et al. in combination with Maeda discloses all the limitations based on the method claim 23, as outlined above. The combination of Kuriuzawa et al. with Maeda as modified above furthers teaches an arbitrary zone at an inner and/or outer circumferences in each zone (See Kuriuzawa et al. col. 2, lines 43-62), but fails to disclose wherein the recording of user data includes recording of a zone start position, then recording of the user data, then a recording of a zone end position.

However this feature is well known in the art as evidenced by Fukushima et al., which discloses an optical disc with a plurality of zones and recording of a zone start position, then recording of the user data, then a recording of a zone end position. (See col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 31; Fig. 3).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an arbitrary zone start position, then recording of the user data, then a recording of a zone end position in order to avoid erroneous reproduction due to cross-talk as suggested by Fukushima et al.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. U.S. Patent No. 6,603,729 to Van Den Enden, which discloses an optical disc having a plurality of zones wherein the tracks are wobble in a predetermined modulation.
- b. U.S. Patent No. 6,469,978 to Ohata et al., which discloses a rewritable optical disk formatted with a plurality of zones and providing an arbitrary area between zones.

- c. U.S. Patent No. 6,201,784 to Maeda, which discloses a disk type-recording medium having zones with address information by wobbling.
- d. U.S. Patent No. 6,167,022 Ishida et al., which discloses an optical disc having oscillating land and grooves.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jorge L Ortiz-Criado whose telephone number is (703) 305-8323. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thu.(8:30 am - 6:00 pm),Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris H To can be reached on (703) 305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

joc


DORIS H. TO 9/17/03
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600